

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Gwen Moore today announced that the County of Milwaukee and the cities of Milwaukee and West Allis will receive energy efficiency and conservation project grants- with a combined total of nearly \$7.2 million- from the Department of Energy (DOE). The funding- \$5.8 million for City of Milwaukee, \$733,000 for Milwaukee county and \$576,200 for the City of West Allis- from DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program is included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grants are expected to be used for projects that reduce total energy use, fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

"The continued investments we see from the Recovery Act are making an impact and creating jobs in our communities," said Congresswoman Gwen Moore. "I am proud that our localities are prioritizing innovative energy efficiency and conservation initiatives and taking the steps necessary to make the most out of these additional funds. Only through proactive and innovative solutions can we get our country back on the right economic and environmental track."

The City of Milwaukee has indicated that it will use the new funds for priority energy efficiency and renewable energy projects including an energy efficiency program for city residents and businesses. The program, the Milwaukee Energy Efficiency program (ME2), is designed to help homeowners and businesses cover the up-front cost of energy efficiency improvements such as insulation and energy efficient furnaces. Homeowners and businesses would pay for the cost of efficiency improvement over time as a charge on their municipal service bill or utility bill based on a pay-back schedule that allows them immediate savings. The city hopes to kick-off ME2 before next winter so city residents can access funds to insulate their homes, replace old heating and cooling units and make other improvements. This will save city residents thousands of dollars in annual energy costs and put people to work making the energy efficiency improvements. Once fully implemented, the program will create hundreds of quality jobs ranging from entry level to highly skilled. In addition, the City of Milwaukee will also use a portion of the funds to improve energy efficiency in City buildings, saving the City and its taxpayers money.

"Thanks to Congresswoman Moore for her support of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, these funds will allow us accelerate and expand energy efficiency work in the City of Milwaukee. We look forward to partnering with our local workforce agencies and businesses to train a new green workforce and to enlist them to improve the efficiency of our homes, businesses and local governments. Milwaukee is ready to put these funds to work," said Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.

The Recovery Act funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, renewable energy installations on government buildings, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, deployment of Combined Heat and Power and district heating and cooling systems, and others.

To ensure accountability, the Department of Energy will provide guidance to and require grant recipients to report on the number of jobs created or retained, energy saved, renewable energy capacity installed, greenhouse gas emissions reduced, and funds leveraged. Funding is based on a formula that accounts for population and energy use.

"The Block Grants are a major investment in energy solutions that will strengthen America's economy and create jobs at the local level," said Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. "The funding will be used for the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have – energy efficiency and conservation – which can be deployed immediately. The grants also empower local communities to make strategic investments to meet the nation's long term clean energy and climate goals."

Nationwide, cities and counties will receive nearly \$1.9 billion under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and states and territories will receive nearly \$770 million. States will receive and administer funds for those counties and cities that are not large enough to qualify for direct DOE funding.

"I thank Congresswoman Gwen Moore for her help in securing these funds for Milwaukee County through the stimulus package," said Milwaukee County Chairman Lee Holloway. "Through Milwaukee County's Green Print legislation, we made conservation and energy efficiency a priority. These funds will boost our efforts in Milwaukee County."

Today's announcement is in addition to DOE's recent release of nearly \$8 billion to support weatherization and state energy projects of which Wisconsin received over \$196 million.

###